

AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Veterinary

Item number: 27/8/20

Title: Deputy Assistant Director Veterinary
Services, 5th Australian Division

February 1918



AWM4-27/8/20

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

L.A.D.V.S. 5 Australian Division
and
5 Australian Mobile Veterinary Section

FOR

February 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

Max Henry Major

Signature of Officer Commanding

Max Henry Major
L.A.D.V.S. 5 Australian Division

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

(Erase heading not required.)

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WAR DIARY

OF

LA 2785th Australian Division

FOR

February

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

I

Animal Wasteage & General Condition

II

Inspection of Unit Transport Lines

III

Range.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

GENERAL CONDITION OF ANIMALS FOR MONTH OF FEBY.

Condition of the animals of the Division especially the Mules remains good. Debility in its last year sense is non-existent and this in spite of the fact that many of the mules were not clipped till the end of November.

So far the lowered ration has not adversely affected the animals, as the loss is being balanced to some extent by greater care in feeding and the utilisation of salvaged feed such as Turnips.

No ill effects have yet been observed from the use of the Metal Plates issued to prevent Picked up nail. OPTHALMIA has not occurred to the extent as in the previous month, and apart from OPTHALMIA and MANGE there is practically no disease in the Division worth mentioning.

The total wastage for the month was:-

	Riders	L.D.	Mules.	H.D.	Pack.	Totals.
Evacuated.	14.	71	22.	11.	-	118
Died.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Destroyed.	.	2	1	.	.	3
Missing.	-	-
<u>TOTALS.</u>	14.	74.	23.	11.		122.

Stan Henry
.....MAJOR.

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Report of Inspections of Unit Transport Lines.

February 1918;.

3/2/1918

8th Field Coy. Eng. Condition Good. Stabling Good.

14th Machine Gun Coy. Condition of animals Good, Stabling Good
Shoeing Smith watched at work and was noticed paring down the
frog and sole excessively. He was instructed to cease this pra
ctice.

14th Field Ambulance. Condition of animals Good Stabling Good
This Unit was found to be without a Sgts. Wallet Veterinary
54th 55th 56th Btns. Condition of animals Good Stabling Good.
53rd. Btn. Some animals in this Unit were discovered with Skin
Lesions and the affected parts not clipped. The attention of
Brigade was drawn to these matters as stricter control was
required.

15th Field Coy Eng. Condition of animals Good but Lice and
Mange present.

4/2/18

5th Pioneers Condition of animals Good Stabling very Good.
14th Field Engrs Condition Good. All the animals of this Unit
about to be dipped owing to the presence of Mange.
1st Aust. Tunnelling Coy; (Temp. under Vetry. Administration)
Condition Good Stabling Good Some animals not clipped.
Veterinary attention sporadic and somewhat unsatisfactory.
167th Army Troops Coy. (Temp. attached) Condition Good
Stabling Good.

5th/2/18

29th Battn. Condition Good Stabling Poor. Provision of good
stables being looked into by Division.

25th Machine Gun Coy. 31st. 59th. 60th. Battns 15th Machine
Gun Coy. Condition Good Stabling Good.

6th/2/18

18th, 28th, 29th, A.A.S.C. Condition Good Stabling Good.
49th, 113th Batteries Condition Good Stabling Fair.

51st Bty. Condition Fair.

7th/2/1918

14th Machine Gun Coy. Condition ~~Good~~ Stabling Good.

53rd. 54th. Batteries, 5th D.A.C. Condition Good. Stabling Good

8th/2/18

114th Bty. 5th Div Sigs, 5th M.V.S., 5th D.H.Q., Condition
Good Stabling Good.

50th Bty. Condition Fair Stables Good.

9th/2/18

50th, 55th, Batteries, 30th 32nd 58th 59th Btns. 8th Machine Gn
Coy. Condition Good Stabling Good.

Transport Lines. 211/2/18

30th, 32nd, 57th, 58th, Btms. Condition Good Stabling Good.
8th Machine Gun Coy, Condition Good Stabling Good. Extra Horse Ration was recommended, for this Unit, ~~was~~ to the S.S.O. in view of the size and weight of the animals.

55th Battery Condition Good Stables Good.

49th Battery. Condition Good Stabling Poor.

12/2/18

51st Battery Condition Fair and improving.

8th Field Ambulance, Condition Good Stabling very good.

10th A.A.S.C. 29th A.A.S.C., 5th Pioneers, 14th Field Amb. Condition Good Stabling Good.

14th Field Engrs. Condition improving Stables Good.

8th Field Engrs, Condition Good Stabling Good. This Unit was short of Hay Nets and the O.C. was asked to indent for same.

13/2/18

51st Bty. 5th Div. Sigs. 5th M.V.S., 5th D.H.Q., Condition Good Stables Good.

14/2/18

53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 59th, 60th, 29th, 31st, Battns. Condition Good Stables Good with the exception of the 29th Battn who are building.

15th

Dipped 400 animals of the Division for Mange;

16/2/18

Attended a conference at AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

114th Battery Condition very fair Stabling Good but flooring broken Repairs to be carried out.

17/2/18

55th Battery, 54th Battery, 53rd Battery, 10th, 18th, 28th, 29th, A.A.S.C. Condition Good Stabling Good.

51st Battery Condition Fair Stables Good.

18th

113th Battery Improving.

49th Battery 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, Battns. All in Good Condition

19th

50th, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, Btys. 55th, 54th, Btms. 8th Fld. Engrs. All in Good condition.

20th

Dipped 462 animals of the Division for Mange.

22/2/18

50th, 53rd 54th 55th Batteries. Good

113th Bty. & 1st Sec. D.A.C. Condition Good Stabling Good.

23rd

Attended Conference at Australian Corps.

50th 55th 53rd, 54th, visited; Generally speaking Artillery Horses appear to require more exercise.

24/2/18

49th, 51st, 113th, 114th, Batteries. "B" Echelon & No. 1. Sectn. D.A.C.

25/2/18

Inspected all the Artillery Horses with A.D.V.S. AUSTRALIAN; CORPS.

Transport Lines. 3

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26/2/1918 49th, 51st, 53rd, 54th, 113th, 114th, Batteries
14th Field Ambulance Condition improving. Approach
to stables very bad; this is being improved.
Lime washing not yet carried out.
14th Machine Gun Coy. Condition improving. Whitewashing
not yet carried out.
8th Field Engrs. Condition improving. Approach to
stable greatly improved, and a good stable yard
constructed.
14th Inf. Bde. All Btns. in excellent condition.

27/2/1918 50th, 53rd, 54th, 55th, Batteries
Dipped 200 animals.

28/2/1918 Dipped 200 animals. Visited 51st, 114th Batteries,
5th Aust Mob. Vetry. Sectns/ 14th & 15th Field Ambs.

Gran Henry
..... MAJOR.

MANGE

Appendix....

The spread of Mange is becoming serious. It is present in a most virulent form and constant work and supervision will be required to eradicate it. The Division has been asked to prohibit the movement of horses from one Unit to another or one Section of a Unit to another and to draw the attention of all ranks to the necessity of explicitly carrying out the directions of the Veterinary Staff.

The S.S.O. has been asked to obtain a large supply of quicklime for the purpose of whitewashing all stables in the Division. This has been carried out and the work is progressing satisfactorily.

There is no doubt in my mind that with one exception these outbreaks are due to horses being unwittingly placed in contaminated stables. In the Units first attacked viz: The 14th & 15th Field Coy. Engrs. the disease appears to have been got under control as no fresh cases have occurred for some time.

Dipping has been carried out in the Division during the month and the 51st Battery, the worst affected Unit in the Division is now undergoing its third dipping.

The last lot of remounts obtained in January have been a bad investment for the Division as many had not been clipped in the early winter or autumn. When these animals become attacked by Mange it may be present for some time and spread widely on the body before any sign is apparent and thus they act as centres of infection, whereas with the old animals of the Division, which are all clipped the disease is observable almost from the start.

Every days experience convinces me that clipping in the autumn and early winter is an essential of good horsemastership under present conditions.

Total evacuations for Mange during the month. 77....

Gran Henry
MAJOR.